



THE

MISSIONARY MAGAZINE

AND

CHRONICLE:

CHIEFLY RELATING TO THE MISSIONS OF

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

VOLUME XXX.

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1866.

VISIT OF THE REV. R. J. THOMAS TO COREA.

Our brother had no sooner arrived in the north, whither he proceeded by instruction of the Directors, than, in connection with the Rev. A. WILLIAMSON, he resolved to proceed, *pro tem.*, as a distributor of Scriptures, to the west coast of Corea, a country utterly unknown to any but Catholic missionaries. It was an enterprise undertaken not without considerable uncertainty and peril; but we are thankful that our devoted brethren, after travelling for four months amidst perils by water and perils by land, returned to their starting-point in safety.

"London Mission, Peking, January 12th, 1866.

"MY DEAR DR. TIDMAN,—We left Chefoo on the 4th of September, on board a small Chinese junk, and arrived off the mainland of Corea on the 13th. We spent two months and a half on the coast. I had acquired, through the assistance of a Corean Roman Catholic, sufficient knowledge of the colloquial to announce to these poor people some of the most precious truths of the Gospel. They are, as a whole, very hostile to foreigners; but, by a little chat in their own language, I could persuade them to accept a book or two. As these books are taken at the risk of denudation, or, at least, fines and imprisonment, it is quite fair to conclude that the possessors wish to read them. The storms that blew along the west coast of Corea through last autumn, according to the testimony of Chinese pilots who have traded with Corea for twenty years, have been unprecedented. I should fatigue you were I to narrate our hair-breadth escapes. A gracious Providence preserved us. I had intended visiting the capital, 'Wang-king,' but the Corean junk in which I had taken a passage was dashed to pieces by one of these terrible gales. No life lost. Leaving Corea in the beginning of December, I landed on the coast of Manchuria, and found that I had only escaped the dangers of the sea to fall, perhaps, into those on land. You are aware that the entire country of Manchuria is in a state of agitation. Long since, small bands of mounted robbers were the terror of the lonely highways of the Far East. Latterly these bands have combined together, and assumed such alarming proportions as to characterize the movement a downright rebellion. I landed at a port called Pi-tz-wo: two days after leaving, it was occupied by the rebels. I had spent three very pleasant days in distributing the Scriptures and preaching the Gospel. The people were more than merely civil and attentive. A Mohammedan, named Likwo Fa, bought a copy of each kind of book I had, and insisted on sending me dinners daily free of expense.

"Passing through Kaichon, I arrived at Tingtsz (New Chwang), where I was very hospitably entertained by H.B.M.'s Consul, T. Taylor Meadows, Esq. Thence, travelling partly on horseback and partly in carts, rounding the northern part of the Gulf of Tiau Tung, and passing the great wall of Shan Hai Kwan, I entered the province of Chi' Li, and breathed freely, for thither the robbers could not follow us. The Chinese Government had dispatched some four thousand troops to tranquillize Manchuria.

"To sum up, I have been four months away from European society, and travelled by sea and land nearly two thousand miles. I am well acquainted with the coast of the two western provinces of Corea, and have made numerous vocabularies and dialogues in the colloquial of the capital, which will be useful in any future negotiations with that people.

"I can hardly express to you how glad I am to be here. By God's help I will try to bear part of the burden which Mr. Edkins has borne so long and so well. I wish to convey to the Board my grateful thanks for their kindness. Will you, too, accept my best thanks for the kind encouraging words you have uttered from time to time, pending the ultimate decision of the Board?

"The first week of my residence in Peking has necessarily been taken up in making the usual calls on the foreign residents. Our week of prayer-meetings hitherto has been well attended.

"Next week I purpose commencing in earnest a course of study which will fit me for the Chinese pulpit.

"With kind regards to the Directors,

"Believe me, dear Dr. Tidman,

"Very sincerely yours,

"REV. DR. TIDMAN."

"R. JERMAIN THOMAS.

SHANGHAE.

ARRIVAL OF REV. G. S. OWEN, APPOINTED TO SHANGHAE, AND REV. E. BRYANT, APPOINTED TO HANKOW.

The former gives his first impressions of his new station, which are truly gratifying, accompanied by a general statement of the strange scenes which he witnessed, in a letter to the Rev. JOHN CORBIN, of Hornsey, with whose Church, during the last year of his studies at Highgate, he had the privilege of Christian communion.

"London Mission, Shanghai, China,

"April 7th, 1866.

"MY DEAR MR. CORBIN,—It is now just two months since our arrival in Shanghai. We stayed the first six weeks with Mr. Davison, from whom we received the greatest possible kindness. He treated us with brotherly affection. Since then we have been living in our own home, and have succeeded in making it very comfortable. I wish you and Mrs. Corbin could pay us a visit: we would endeavour to make it evident that we had not forgotten your great kindness to us. We often recall those happy days we spent with you, and the very thought of such Christian love cheers us in this far-off land. Many others of the Hornsey friends will have a lasting place in our affection. Our coming to Shanghai has added at least two to friendship's list. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell show us great kindness, and are ready to help us in every way.

Mr. Muirhead is a most able and devoted missionary. His life is a living epistle to the Lord. He is at least doing the work of two men. He preaches three sermons in English each week, seven in Chinese (sometimes many more), and superintends the ten out-stations belonging to the Mission. To this you must add the visiting and the innumerable things connected with the English and Chinese work. He has been in China now some nineteen years without having been home. I devoutly thank God for having called me to work with such a man. His earnest labours and noble example will stir me up to like devotedness in the Master's service, and will show me how much a man can do when his heart is in the work.

Mrs. Muirhead, too, is a thorough missionary. She is constantly engaged in some deed of Christian charity or other. But of her labours Mrs. Owen will inform you.

Our English chapel will seat about 400, and is very well attended. I have counted in it, on an average, once each Sunday since my arrival. Mr. Muirhead is deservedly popular as an English preacher. The number of Europeans here is great, but many of them have never attended a place of worship since coming to China. What a fearful influence their conduct must have over the Chinese! Oh that every merchant here were a Christian man! how soon then would the millions of this great land feel the life-giving power of the everlasting Gospel! It is sad, thrice sad, that from a Christian country and from Christian homes such men should come to a heathen country. But so it is, and the fact is a call to the Church of Christ to send the light of eternal truth with them, that all may not be darkness. I may just add, there is an Episcopal Church in this city, the clergyman of which is very much liked, both as a man and a preacher. May his labours be blessed.

We have two chapels in the Chinese city, the larger of which is a very comfortable place, seating about 300, perhaps more. When Mr. Muirhead preaches, it is filled with people, many of whom listen with deep attention to the Word of Life. Oh, may the glorious day soon come when that Word shall be written on the heart of China's unnumbered millions! We know that day will come, and in faith we will labour on. Mr. M. often preaches in the open air, and whenever he does so, crowds press to hear him. He can get a congregation anywhere. Members and hearers are constantly leaving for other and distant parts. May each carry with him the glad news of salvation, and thus help to spread it through the length and breadth of the land.

We have ten churches and preaching-stations, and ten native teachers, here in Shanghai. We hope soon to increase this number. Two new stations are now being formed, and others will follow. The total number of church members is 416, of whom 189 were received last year. The late rebellion has broken up and fearfully wasted this province. Thousands at the command of the Taipings took refuge in Shanghai, and are now gradually returning to their desolate homes. But, apart from this fact, a membership of 416 in a place where only one missionary labours, must be considered a glorious success, and an encouraging earnest of better things. Already the day foretold by Isaiah is dawning, and, as the ransomed of the Lord march onward, we can say, 'And these from the land of Siniu.' But the little one

shall become a thousand, and the small one a great people. The mustard seed shall grow—the little leaven shall permeate the mass. The water, now so low, shall rise higher and higher till it has flooded the land. May God's people at home, and God's servants abroad, be faithful to their great and solemn trust! May the Saviour's last command be never forgotten by those who love Him—by hearts to whom He is dear.

"I have been thrice into the Taoist temple here; on two occasions it was crowded with worshippers. The entrance and court-yard were occupied by parties buying and selling. The temple itself, which is not large, is stored with a host of gods; but the only one worshipped was an odd-looking animal, which appeared to be a cross between a lamb and a unicorn. It was seated on a lofty urn, on and around which burned a multitude of tapers—the offerings of the devotees. Before the strange god lay a low bench, on which the worshippers prostrated themselves. On either side was a tube to receive the contributions of the people. Near by stood the incense censer, from which arose a perpetual cloud of smoke, and not far off was the priest with the sticks and papers containing the will of the gods. The worship seemed an empty, cold-hearted thing. In came the devotee, with his red tapers and paper money. The priest immediately lighted the former, and placed them before the idol; the latter he burned in the censer. The devotee then bowed, performed a few prostrations, and, going to a priest, received a box of sticks with numbers on them; approaching very near to the idol, he again bowed, and then, having well shaken the box, drew forth a stick. This stick was given to the priest, who returned the worshipper a small slip of paper; and away went the devotee, bearing in his hand the decree of the gods. It was a sad sight for a Christian to gaze on: the dark scene made one's heart well-nigh bleed. It makes one's blood turn cold to see men, women, and children bow down at an idol's feet and give to it their homage, ignorant of the one true and living God. Oh, when, when will the time come when the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep—when all shall know Him, from the least even unto the greatest? May Christians of every name pray and labour for its coming!

"I am working away at the language, and am by no means appalled at its difficulties. I find the Shanghai dialect very different to the Mandarin, and consequently my previous studies are not very much help to me. The Chinese is a singular language: it consists principally of *set phrases*, to break the rhythm of which will probably render you unintelligible; consequently, to know words is of little use. I long intensely to be able to speak to the thousands around me in their mother tongue, and in that tongue proclaim the glorious tidings of salvation. I hope the day is not far off when I shall be able to do so. I will, at any rate, work hard.

"My dear wife and myself are in the best possible health. The weather since our arrival has been just like it would have been in England during the same season; but I am told that ere long we shall feel a great difference. The summer is fearfully hot, the thermometer being for two months at 100°.

"Please remember us very kindly and affectionately to our many friends. I hope they do not forget us at the throne of grace.

Hoping Mrs. Corlín and yourself are well, with love, in which Mrs. Owen cordially unites,

"I remain,

"My dear Mr. Corlín,

"Most affectionately yours,

(Signed) "GEORGE S. OWEN."

POLYNESIA.

GLAD TIDINGS FROM NIUE, OR SAVAGE ISLAND.

"Savage Island, May 10th, 1865.

"MY DEAR SIR. We are daily expecting a chance to forward letters to England, and I embrace the opportunity to send you a report of our work here for the past year. I have but little to communicate: the past year has been a very smooth and even one, with no extraordinary events, either of a sad or a joyous character.

"God has been very gracious to us. While He has seen fit to remove so many of our brethren and sisters from the scene of their labours in Samoa, He has successfully kept us in health and strength, so that we have been enabled to work on in joy and peace. As a Mission, too, we have been greatly blessed, scarcely anything having occurred to cause us sorrow or anxiety.

PROSPEROUS STATE OF THE CHURCH.

"The church on Niue continues to increase in numbers. From the accompanying statistics you will see that 284 have been admitted to the Church during the year. We have now 1075 in Church fellowship. None of these have been admitted to the Church until they have been a long time under probation, and every inquiry made about them. Their conduct as Church members justifies the hope that a large number have been brought out of darkness into light, from death unto life. An unusually large number have been removed by death. The end of many we know was peace. They died resting on Christ as their Saviour. Of others we have had pleasing testimony from those who witnessed their departure. Notwithstanding, we have been grieved by the inconsistency of some, though their numbers have been few.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION.

"My Teachers' Class (we don't aspire to an 'Institution' on Savage Island) has given me much pleasure and encouragement. There are twelve young women in it, who with their wives live near to us. Mrs. Lawes has several times been with these women. The young men have made great progress, particularly how short a time they have been under instruction. Some of them are a good hand, and are helping me by copying the translation MSS. of the New Testament for the press. They have been engaged in the following studies: *viz.* writing, arithmetic, geography, Old Testament history, and so on. I go together with a Bible class weekly on Matthew and the Acts of the Apostles. I hope to appoint some of them this year to several of our out-

stations, where they will be a great help to the Samoan teachers at the large stations. Many are burning with desire to go as pioneers to heathen lands; but this is impossible until we get a new ship.

"Our schools continue to prosper, but we are sadly crippled for want of suitable books, &c. A small printing-press would be exceedingly useful to us. The portions of the New Testament printed by the Sydney Auxiliary Bible Society are nearly all sold and paid for. The natives, both children and adults, learn to read much quicker in the Sydney printed books than in former books printed in Samoa.

"One of the principal events of the past year has been the appointment of constables and judges as a terror to evildoers, and connected with this a monthly meeting of these in authority. A deputation of six from each of the six settlements meet here once a month to make laws, &c. This is an improvement on the old custom of each village making its own laws independent of others. Collisions were frequent, and differences not always easy to be settled amicably. I give them what help I can, without being in any way a judge or a ruler over them. We hope to see good fruit from these new institutions, but we are not very sanguine about it. Niueans have the least possible idea of order and government. It has been the people's own work, and not ours.

TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

"With regard to the translation of the Scriptures, I have been going on carefully as God has given me opportunity. Since last May I have completed the translation of the Epistles to Romans, Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Philemon, with the 1 and 2 Peter and Jude. I have nearly completed the revision of them. Mr. Pratt has rendered us good service by revising the MSS.; he has made many important corrections and suggestions. We need another missionary here to do this work effectually. The only book of the New Testament still untranslated is that of Revelation: I hope to begin that soon, if it be the Lord's will.

"The contributions of this year to the London Missionary Society are greatly in excess of any previous year, notwithstanding the very low rate at which we are obliged to estimate native produce. With the exception of a very little money and cotton, the whole of the contributions have been made in cocoa-nut fibre.

LIBERALITY OF NATIVE CHRISTIANS.

"The children's contributions for the new ship are equal in value to £124 7s. 6d., the adult contributions to the general objects of the Society are equal to £200, making a total of £324 7s. 6d. The above is estimated at the price the cocoa-nut fibre, of which their contributions mainly consist, will fetch at Apia, in Samoa, which is just half the price it fetched in Sydney in 1863. Our contributions last year amounted to £237, but they were estimated at double the present price. So, you see, Savage Island has more than doubled her contributions: 'She hath done what she could.' The greatest enthusiasm has prevailed. The people have done their utmost. There is scarcely a cocoa-nut, such as is used for fibre, to be had on the whole island. Much has been done from a desire to outstrip

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MADAGASCAR.

The Members of the Society must have shared with the Directors in their anxious and painful solicitude in reference to the state of the Government in Madagascar, and more particularly as to the truth or otherwise of the reports that RADAMA II. was still alive. To these reports we referred in our last number, but the intelligence received from the Rev. WILLIAM ELLIS, on which they were founded, reached no later than September 19th, and arrived in this country on the 5th of November. By the last mail, which reached England on the 7th ult., no intelligence was received; but in the "Mauritius Commercial Gazette," which that mail conveyed, and which contained intelligence from Madagascar to the end of October, there was not the slightest reference even to the rumour of the King's being alive—on the contrary, the latest information from the capital would all lead to the conclusion that such a report was entirely disbelieved.

By the South African mail, however, which arrived on the 23rd ult., we received letters from the Rev. WILLIAM THOMPSON, of Cape Town, dated November 20th, in which he states that Mr. CAMERON, who arrived at ANTANANARIVO on the 6th of September, had addressed letters to his friends in the colony, in which he affirms that the report that the king was living was entirely unfounded. The following article to that effect we copy from the "South African Advertiser and Mail," of the 19th November:—

"Mr. James Cameron, sen., who recently left Cape Town for Madagascar, writes to his friends of his safe arrival at the capital, Antananarivo, early in September. He speaks with much pleasure and satisfaction of the highly favourable reception given to him both by the government and the people, and describes the intelligence and consistency of the native Christians as deserving of very high praise. He states that the story of the King being still alive proves to be altogether false. The persons sent to put him to death found the King and Queen together early in the morning. They first of all

Table of names and amounts, organized by region: Rowley, Madag., CANADA, Toronto, SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town, and various individuals.

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emperors of that proud Chinese dynasty were laid, each in his own sepulchre. They occupy a vast amphitheatre among mountains, opening to the south, and occupying about fifteen square miles. Rich marble arches and monuments abound. The tomb of Yung lo, who in the fifteenth century removed the seat of government from Nanking to Peking, is of magnificent proportions. The pillars which support the tablet hall are enormous teak trees, brought by land from Burmah. The artificial mound, in which the remains of this emperor are interred, is nearly a mile in circumference. A long avenue of gigantic stone figures conducts to these tombs. The figures represent officers of state, elephants, lions, camels, horses, and various fabulous animals.

Leaving this curious spectacle, we went through a rocky mountain pass, extending for fifteen miles through the mountain chain, which here stretches from the N.E. to the S.W. Five miles from the entrance, we came upon a monument in four languages, erected in the time of the Mongolian dynasty. The languages are Sanscrit, Tibetan, Mongol, and Chinese. The subject is a Buddhist charm, intended to be read by travellers making use of these languages, for their own preservation and that of the empire. The great wall is carried over the mountains on the north side of the chain. Beside the double gates and walls of this ancient structure, there are two fortresses, which guard the interior of the pass, and another at its south end. Leaving these barriers, we entered on the department of Sinen hwa fu, where we visited several walled towns and cities. Sinen hwa fu is the seat of a Romanist mission. Its walls are ten miles in circuit. In the thirteenth century it was the summer residence of the Mongol emperors, a circumstance which led to its walls being extended to this large size. Near it there is an extensive range of coal pits, which appear to have been worked for many centuries.

This is the season for the annual visit of Mongol traders to Peking. We met groups of them, with large droves of camels, and some of them riding on ponies. Those with whom I was able to have a few minutes' conversation accepted books with willingness. We are now distributing constantly, as there is opportunity, copies of seven tracts by Mr. Stallybrass, and the Old and New Testaments, by Mr. Swan and Mr. Stallybrass, all in Mongolian.

CHANG KIA KOW is a very populous and busy town. We remained there two nights. A French merchant, who is also a zealous Catholic, is residing there, and there is also a Russian consulate. We spent one of our Sundays on the edge of the Mongolian plateau, to which point a day's riding on our mules brought us, by a rapidly ascending road. There we saw the sort of life which the Abbé Hue vividly depicts in his work on Tartary—the fire of argols, the round tent, with its fire in the centre, its felt carpeting round the fire for seats, and its piled boxes and household articles on the sides. Some of the Mongols we found living in houses constructed in Chinese fashion. The women and children came forward to see us without fear. In the village, two only of these simple, kindly-tempered people could read.

At various towns where we stopped for the night, going and returning, we sought out the schoolmasters in the neighbourhood, and strove to awaken their interest in the good things of the kingdom of God; and obtained from them what information we could regarding the towns in which they reside. The anxiety exhibited for books was, as is usual in China, very great; and

we hope your prayers will ascend to the Lord of the harvest, that the books given away may be useful to the readers. A custom-house officer at one town had previously received a Testament when at Tung cheu, his native city. This he said he had given to a friend, and was anxious to have another.

I am now establishing a small preaching station in a populous part of this city, and a day-school in another. Soon I hope I may be able to inform you that these attempts to extend our operations here have proved fruitful in spiritual benefits to the people in the vicinity.

The summary dismissal of Captain Oshorn and Mr. Lay by the Chinese Government has caused us some anxiety. It looks like the commencement of an anti-foreign policy; but, while the present English ambassador remains, it is not likely that anything will be done to irritate or alienate the Native authorities. Now that we have obtained a lodgment here, the mild policy of her Majesty's representative is to us the best guarantee for our undisturbed continuance in this important field for missionary labour.

I remain, yours very truly,
 (Signed) "JOSEPH EDKINS."

"REV. DR. TIDMAN."

ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

LETTER FROM REV. WILLIAM MUIRHEAD.

Shanghai, December 9th, 1863.

DEAR DR. TIDMAN,—I have much pleasure in informing you of the arrival of the 'Polmaise.' Our missionary friends are all well, and appear thoroughly to have enjoyed their voyage. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are now with us, and I beg to thank the Directors for having sent us such a reinforcement. Your kind expressions in regard to them are amply confirmed in our view; and it will give me the utmost pleasure to labour with our dear Brother in the service of our blessed Lord and Master.

When the 'Polmaise' arrived, at the close of last week, there seemed to be no hope of our other Brethren, Dr. Dudgeon and Mr. James Williams, proceeding north during the winter. Accordingly, I sought to make all needful arrangements for their stay here. I have just been informed, however, by the consignee of one of the steamers, that there is a probability of her going north in a day or two. It is uncertain, on account of the setting in of the ice. Still, if she should go, I shall be glad to send our two Brethren by her, as they are also anxious to reach their respective destinations. The steamer will not land them at Tientsin, but at Taku, from which there is a suitable means of conveyance to Tientsin and Peking. It will be a great satisfaction to our missionary friends there to see their colleagues as soon as possible.

Mr. McMaclan, Baptist missionary, after staying a night at Tientsin, goes to-day to Cheloo.

Mr. Wylie has not arrived here yet, and I don't expect him for some time. He would probably reach Peking on the 15th inst. and unless he comes speedily he will be detained in the north till spring. I am most desirous of knowing at his hands the relation he will sustain to the printing-office.

earnest wish is to devote all my attention to the direct promotion of our great work.

"The important city of Sushow has at length been surrendered by the rebels, owing to the superior strategy of the Anglo-Chinese leaders in the Imperial service. This will affect the whole surrounding country, and throw it open to missionary work. In that case we shall endeavour to extend our labours without weakening them at any particular point.

"I hope to write you at the close of the month, and meanwhile am,

"Dear Dr. Tidman,

"Yours very sincerely,

"REV. DR. TIDMAN."

(Signed) "W. MUIRHEAD."

INDIA.

MISSIONARY TOUR IN THE HYDERABAD COUNTRY.

WHILE among the people of India there are still multitudes who, from bigotry or custom, cling to their hereditary superstitions, and refuse to examine the claims of Christianity, there are others—and happily their numbers are largely on the increase—who listen to the message of a Saviour's love with interest and delight. The Rev. Edward Porter, of Cuddapah, during a recent tour in Hyderabad, a much neglected portion of the Telugu country, met with many of this latter class; and truly affecting must it have been, when he had proclaimed the Gospel in their midst, to hear their pathetic rebuke:—"How long have you known of this good way? Why did you not come and tell us about it before?" The field is indeed ripe unto the harvest, but the labourers are few and far between. Would that they were greatly multiplied!

"As I have just returned from a long and deeply interesting tour in the Hyderabad country (having been absent two months from home, travelled seven hundred and twenty miles, and visited, either myself or with the aid of the evangelist (Peter), upwards of ninety towns and villages), I am able to speak concerning the nature of the country, the disposition of the people, and the facilities that at present exist for the spread of Divine truth in this hitherto neglected part of the Telugu country. From Kurnool to Hyderabad is a fine open country, interspersed with low forest, and capable of great agricultural improvements. It consists of a fine elevated plain, gradually rising from the banks of the Kestua, as far as the neighbourhood of Hyderabad, to the height of 2200 feet above the level of the sea. The present condition of the inhabitants is very distressing to every Christian and benevolent mind.

DEPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE.

"The people (chiefly Telugus), are very ignorant, low in worldly circumstances, agriculture very rude, and toddy drunk by all classes, which is sadly corrupting to body and soul. They are grievously oppressed by their voracious landlords, but free from prejudice, less wedded to caste, and far more willing to listen to the message of redeeming love than any natives of the Chittab, and other districts, which I have visited in the Telugu country.

THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL.

"In some places, as at Jampett, Caba-Cota, and Furrakinger, they came out of their villages in groups of thirty, sixty, and ninety, and followed us to the bungalow, beseeching us to tell them more of the good way. In this way we were engaged from day to day, instructing the people as long as we had physical strength to continue our labours among them.

"The folly of idolatry, the evil character of the Hindoo gods, the nature of sin as opposed to God's authority and man's true happiness, the necessity of an all-sufficient sacrifice to atone for sin, the glorious provision that God had made in the Gospel for the removal of it, and our restoration to the Divine favour and image, the nature and happiness of the heavenly world—all these topics were fully discussed and explained to this interesting people, intermixed with earnest exhortations to come to Jesus for spiritual healing. In most cases the natives listened with deep attention, in some with evident anxiety, and in others the countenance lightened up with joy when we told them of the boundless love of God to sinners in Christ Jesus. In a few cases it was difficult to leave them, so great was their anxiety for us to stay with them a few days, to tell them more of this good way.

"The questions put by some of them were very painful, showing the great apathy and deficiency of zeal on the part of the Christian Church to meet the spiritual wants of the heathen world, and the great extent of country that remains yet to be occupied.

"After hearing our messages, some would ask us, 'Sir, how long have you people known of this good way?' When we told them hundreds of years, the reply was ready: 'Why did you not send us instruction before, to tell us of this good way?' What could we say to such words? Others would ask with anxiety, 'When will you come again and tell us more of this religion?'

EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL.

"I will give you a few extracts from my journal, as exhibiting the anxiety of the people to hear the Word of life.

"August 5th. Arrived at Jampett, a large village in the country of the Kunquarthy Rajah, seventy miles from Kurnool, and one hundred and ninety from Cuddapah. Here we found a new bungalow just finished, for the accommodation of European travellers. The scenery all round was beautiful and the air cool and bracing. We spoke to a few natives in the village as we passed through it, and then went on to the bungalow, having visited and preached in two villages that morning.

THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST OPPOSED TO THOSE OF SUEVA.

"A short time after our arrival, a number of natives followed us to listen to our message. Upwards of forty sat down in the verandah to listen to our instructions. We exposed the folly of idol-worship, the nature and cure of sin, and then pointed out the more excellent way. One man, of the same caste, contended stoutly for Sueva being the true God. But when our evangelist showed plainly, from their own books, the vile actions of Sueva, he was silenced, and confessed that such deeds did not become the true God. We then showed them, in contrast, the life and character of our Lord Jesus Christ, and what He had done and suffered for us, and the glorious promises

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THE CHRONICLE

OF THE

London Missionary Society.

I.—OUR PRESENT POSITION.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY, in its onward progress, has reached a period of peculiar interest. An administration, conducted with eminent ability and with singular devotedness, has just come to a close, under which all the Society's operations have been watched over with wisest care, and under which, through Divine favour, faithful toil has in every Mission secured solid results. The time of infancy has long since passed. Some of these Missions have not only advanced beyond boyhood, but have attained the vigour of manly years. Fields, fifty years ago wholly uncultivated, have been nurtured till they are white unto the harvest. An enormous amount of preparatory labour, in books, translations, stations, houses, churches, and in explaining to heathen people the design, the doctrine, and the fruit of Christianity, has been completed. The Congregational Churches of England, joining their brethren of other communions, and keeping pace with the vast influences exerted by modern Christian civilization for the elevation of the world's nations, have entered the fields most open to their efforts, with the direct teaching of that Gospel which alone is the "wisdom of God" to save souls. Not that modern Churches have done their work sufficiently and in due proportion to their resources, or to the claims pressed on their attention; but they have not wholly neglected them. Grace has aided them in some degree to fulfil their share of the great commission neglected so long. Their agency has increased, their efforts have been richly blessed.

That agency has gradually assumed a higher character. The artisans and well-taught schoolmasters, who formed so large a proportion of the Society's early missionaries, have given place to ordained missionaries, specially trained for their work. Native teachers, evangelists, and preachers have grown very numerous, and a list of ordained native pastors has been commenced, which

VI.—OUR MONTHLY RECORD.

1. WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.—It is greatly to be regretted that, owing to the heavy rain and the diminished congregations of the first Sabbath in January, a very serious deficiency has taken place in the SACRAMENTAL OFFERINGS to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. There was a diminution of the same kind last year; and friends have suggested whether the period of the year at which the collection is made might not be changed. Under present circumstances, the Directors invite the special attention of the Churches to the matter, and trust that the deficiency in the fund may be made up.

2. DEATH OF MRS. NEWPORT.—Amongst many recent trials from sickness and death, the Travancore Mission has sustained a heavy loss in the sudden death of Mrs. NEWPORT, the wife of the Rev. G. O. NEWPORT, of Pareychaley. After the birth of her son, on the 23rd of October, "she gradually sank through sheer exhaustion, and died on Wednesday the 24th." Mrs. Newport had been in India only four years, but her loving, consistent, prayerful life, won for her general esteem and regard. Her estimate of the work she had done for the native converts and the school children was a humble one; nevertheless, on her dying bed she said to her husband, "Tell them in England that I did what I could."

3. DEATH OF THE REV. W. HILLYER.—On the 1st of November, Mr. Hillyer visited the Mission House, to say farewell on his return to Jamaica. The return mail brought news from Mr. Gardner, of Kingston, that he was ill of yellow fever; and on the last day of the year the next mail showed that he was dead. It was a great shock to those who had so recently parted from him; how much greater to those who just received him back in the sphere of his labours, to see him die. Mr. Hillyer had laboured in Jamaica as a missionary since 1852, and had charge of the station of Davyton. Very simple and unobtrusive in his manners, he worked steadily and well, and was greatly beloved by the people of his charge.

4. DEATH OF THE REV. R. J. THOMAS, OF PEKING.—Last July the people of Corea excited the resentment of the French Government and of the civilized world by the barbarous murder of several Roman Catholic priests. An expedition was planned, and Mr. THOMAS, who had recently completed a long journey through Corea, offered to accompany the admiral, and proceeded to the port of Chefoo for that purpose. The admiral being delayed, Mr. Thomas, against the urgent remonstrances of friends, persisted in going over to Corea in an American vessel, the *General Sherman*. This ship reached the coast, proceeded up one of the rivers, and grounded on a sand-bank. The Coreans took its people for pirates and enemies, captured the crew and passengers, beheaded them on shore, and set the vessel on fire. Two priests, recently escaped from Corea, consider that no hope whatever exists that any of the passengers were saved. Apart from the sad result, the Directors deeply regret that Mr. Thomas should have quitted his work in Peking, and still more that he should have unwisely persevered in returning to Corea, where no good could be accomplished. Mr. Thomas went out to China in 1863.

5. THE JOHN WILLIAMS.—The last mail brought intelligence that the ship *John Williams* completed her repairs in dock at Sydney, and sailed once more for the

Islands on November 15th. Several cases of goods belonging to the missionaries had been damaged by sea water; but these were replaced by new goods purchased in Sydney, so that the missionaries would suffer only from the delay.

6. DEPARTURE OF MISSIONARIES.—On Wednesday, December 12th, Mr. JOHN HEWENS WALTON, appointed by the Directors to reinforce the Bangalore Mission, was ordained as a missionary in Rectory Place Chapel, Woolwich. His pastor, the Rev. W. GILL, presided, and offered the ordination prayer; Dr. Mullens described missionary work in India; and Mr. Charlton, of Plymouth, delivered the charge. Mr. Walton sailed on December 20th, by the P. and O. steamer, from Southampton. 2. On November 20th, the Rev. D. MORRIS, of Rotherhithe, left by mail steamer for Hong Kong, having accepted the charge of the English Church in that Colony.

7. ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES.—1. On the 21st of October, the Rev. W. WILYIE and Mrs. Whyte, with Mrs. HALL and two children, arrived at Madras. We regret to add that Mr. Whyte was very ill, and that there is little prospect of his being able to enter on the Mission work for which he had gone out.—2. The Calcutta Mission has been reinforced by the safe arrival of the Rev. J. NAYLOR on October 20th, and of the Rev. Messrs. SLATER and WILKINS, with their wives, on the 20th of December.

8. RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCHES IN SHANGHAI. MESSRS. MUIRHEAD AND OWEN.—"We have ten native teachers at present, and ten Mission Stations; two in Shanghai and eight in different parts of the province. Beside these, there is the Hospital Church, presided over by a native pastor. The present number of members is 116, 189 of whom were received last year. You may perhaps feel surprised that the total number is so small compared with the large number received last year; but the apparent anomaly has an easy though melancholy explanation. During the late Tai-ping rebellion, which raged with fearful havoc through this province, thousands on thousands, I may say millions, died either by the sword, of hunger, or disease. Hamlets, villages, and towns were swept away like chaff before the storm. In the general destruction, several places in which our Society had flourishing Churches were entirely swept away. In two places not one was left to tell the doom of the others; in another village only the pastor escaped to make known the tragic fate of his flock, all of whom perished. This, of course, greatly diminished the number of church-members, though we hope it increased the number of those before the throne who are 'from the land of Sinim.' From this account you will see something of the trials and encouragements the missionaries have had in this part of the Master's vineyard. It seems to me the success, both here and in the other parts of China, is greater than we could have expected. If we consider the tenaciousness with which the Chinese cling to the past, the indifference with which they regard the eternal future, their hatred of everything foreign, and their conceit in their own ways, and then look at the success with which the preaching of the Gospel has been attended, we shall have a fresh proof of the Divinity of that Bible in which we believe, and shall be led to exclaim, 'This is God's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.' I may add, that each Communion Sunday since I have been here there have been two, three, or four additions to our Shanghai Church, and the same, I think, may be said of nearly all our out-stations."—(From a letter of the Rev. G. S. Owen.)